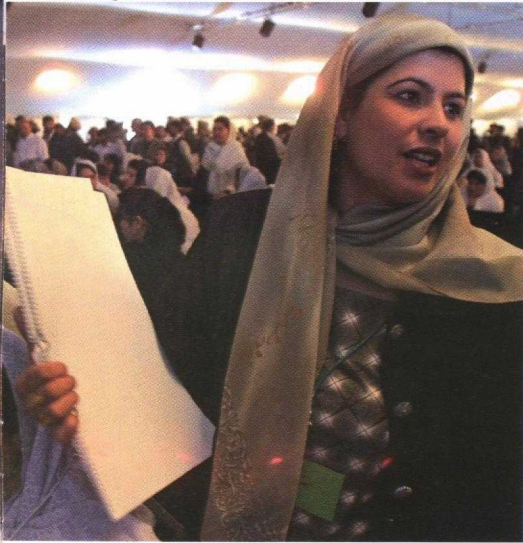


human security

Peace support operations

Bolstering international capacity to undertake multi-dimensional peace support operations

CP/AP (Sergei Grits)



A woman delegate to Afghanistan's newly formed grand council, Kabul, Afghanistan. (2002)

Women, peace and security

■ Improving the effectiveness of modern multi-disciplinary peace support operations requires ensuring that the human rights of women and girls are not compromised. Ignoring gender dynamics and excluding women from peace negotiations inhibits the implementation of the resulting agreements. Similarly, understanding the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, and developing effective responses to guarantee their protection and full participation in peace processes, directly contributes to maintaining international peace and security.

■ Canada is committed to the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of peacebuilding, including the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. During our tenure on the Security Council, the Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This groundbreaking resolution sets out a comprehensive agenda specifying a clear role for women in peace processes and peacebuilding, and the need for gender-sensitive training for personnel involved in peace support operations. In partnership with other governments and NGOs, Canada has worked actively to fulfill the commitments called for in the resolution. Abroad, we participate in the New York-based Friends of Women, Peace and Security group. At home, the Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security engages parliamentarians, government officials and NGOs. In response to the crisis in Afghanistan, the Canadian Committee organized a series of roundtables held across Canada in July 2002 which brought together Afghan-Canadian women to develop concrete recommendations for assisting women in Afghanistan in the context of broader peacebuilding.

■ Canada is currently engaged in promoting the full implementation of Resolution 1325 in partnership with like-minded governments, UN agencies and NGOs. To this end, the Canadian Government is expanding gender training for Canadian personnel deployed on overseas missions, and will broaden its efforts to include the gender dimensions of conflict prevention and security sector reform, as well as the role of women and the media in peacebuilding.

Gender training initiative

Canada's Human Security Program and the United Kingdom collaborated in the development of a gender training course for military and civilian personnel involved in peace support operations (on-line at: www.genderandpeacekeeping.org). This adaptable, two-and-a-half day course explores gender-sensitive approaches to peacebuilding and peacekeeping, dealing with issues such as the gender dimensions of international humanitarian law, sexual violence and internal displacement. The materials are now being widely distributed and further adapted to respond to the real-life challenges facing members of field operations.